

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : H. PRINZING et al.

Appln No. : 09/228,658

Filed : January 12, 1999

For : PRESS DEVICE AND METHOD OF USING THE SAME



Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: Unknown

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. sections 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration:

Applicants submit herewith a copy of a German Search Report dated May 19, 1998 conducted in German Patent Application No. 198 00 807.4, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular the German Examiner cited:

- (1) German Patent Application No. 195 20 443 A1 published December 5, 1996, as a "D" category document (i.e. patents that are already mentioned in the patent application) and an "X" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone). In particular, the German Examiner noted that column 4, lines 5 - 19, Figures 1 and 2, and claim 6 as relevant to claims 1 - 28 of the German document. Applicants note that the above-cited German application is mentioned in the specification of the present application beginning on page 2, line 21 of the disclosure. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,788,817 issued to Bentele

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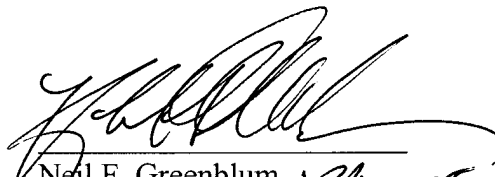

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et al. on August 4, 1998, which is a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited German document.

Copies of the above-listed documents (including the German Search Report) are enclosed as is a copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
H. PRINZING et al.

  
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April 12, 1999  
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